The Story of Abu Hurairah (RA): Fainted Three Times from Fear

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Chapter 1: A Moment of Reverence in Medina

The Gathering: A Witness to Legacy

Upon arriving in Medina, Aqabah bin Muslim noticed a crowd encircling a central figure. Upon inquiry, he learned that the man was none other than Abu Hurairah (RA). Intrigued, Aqabah bin Muslim sat near him, observing as Abu Hurairah (RA) recounted hadiths to the assembled audience.

The Request for a Singular Hadith:

Once Abu Hurairah (RA) fell silent and the audience dispersed, Aqabah bin Muslim approached and requested a narration of a hadith he had heard directly from the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ).

Chapter 2: Abu Hurairah’s (RA) Fainting and Recovery

Overcome by Emotion: The First Collapse

As Abu Hurairah (RA) began to narrate the hadith, he was suddenly overtaken and fainted. After regaining consciousness, he wiped his face and resumed his effort to speak.

The First Attempt of Narration:

Abu Hurairah (RA):

"I will narrate to you the hadith which the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) related to me in this very house. At that time, there was no one else present except me."

The Second Attempt of Narration:

Upon saying these words, Abu Hurairah (RA) once again fainted. After a considerable interval, he recovered once more and reiterated his intent.

A Second Effort:

Abu Hurairah (RA):

"I will narrate to you the hadith which the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) related to me in this very house. At that time, there was no one else present except me."

Again, he fainted and fell forward. Aqabah bin Muslim supported him until he regained stability and health.

The Divine Assembly: Allah’s Judgement Begins

Once able, Abu Hurairah (RA) began the narration entrusted to him by the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ). He described the scene on the Day of Judgement, where all of humanity would be kneeling before Allah Almighty for judgement.

The Trial of the Martyr: Noble Cause or Earthly Praise?

On the Day of Judgement, the first person whose case will be decided is the martyr. He will be brought forward and reminded of the blessings bestowed upon him. Recognising them, he will acknowledge their source.

The Martyr’s Account:

Allah:

"What did you do with these blessings?"

Martyr:

"I fought in Your path until I was martyred."

Allah:

"You lie. You fought so that people would call you brave, and they have called you so."

Thereafter, the command will be given for him to be dragged on his face and thrown into Hell.

The Trial of the Scholar: Sincerity Put to the Test

The next person summoned will be one who acquired knowledge, taught it to others, and recited the Qur’an. He too will be reminded of divine blessings and will admit to recognising them.

The Scholar’s Account:

Allah:

"What did you do with these blessings?"

Scholar:

"I acquired knowledge, taught it, and recited the Qur’an for Your sake."

Allah:

"You lie. You did so to be called a scholar and a reciter, and that has been said about you."

Thereafter, the command will be given for him to be dragged on his face and thrown into Hell.

The Trial of the Wealthy: Charity or Conceit?

The third individual to be judged will be one whom Allah had blessed with wealth and all manner of provision. He will be presented before Allah and reminded of the blessings, which he will confirm.

The Wealthy Man's Account:

Allah:

"What did you do with these blessings?"

Wealthy Man:

"I spent in all avenues You loved, seeking Your pleasure."

Allah:

"You lie. You did it so that people would call you generous, and they have called you so."

Thereafter, the command will be given for him to be dragged on his face and thrown into Hell.

Chapter 4: The Final Admonition

A Personal Warning to Abu Hurairah (RA):

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) then placed his hand on the shoulders of Abu Hurairah (RA) and delivered a sobering pronouncement.

The Ultimate Warning:

Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ):

"O Abu Hurairah! These will be the first of Allah’s creation whose Hellfire will be kindled."